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Shannon

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(54) **SKATEBOARD TRAINING APPARATUS AND METHOD**

(76) Inventor: **James R. Shannon**, Central Point, OR (US)

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(22) Filed: **May 11, 2011**

Related U.S. Application Data

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(51) **Int. Cl.**
A63B 69/00 (2006.01)
A63B 3/00 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
USPC **482/41**; 482/42; 482/51; 482/146; 482/147

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
USPC 482/41, 42, 51, 147, 146
See application file for complete search history.

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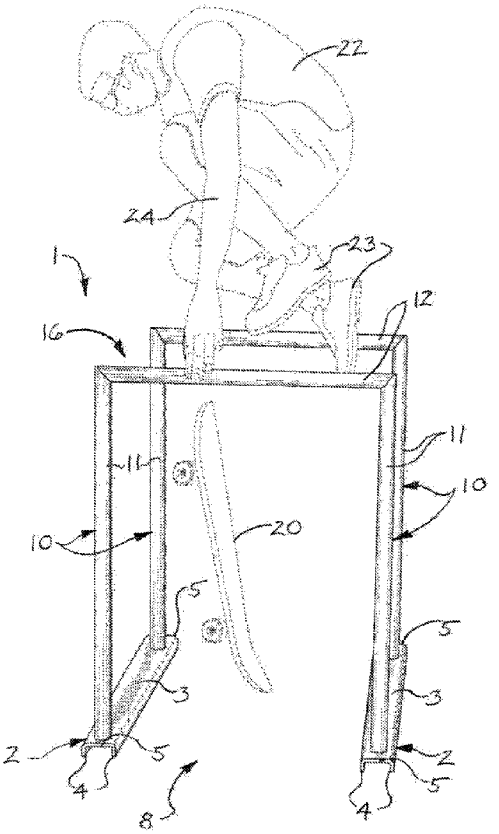
(57) **ABSTRACT**

A skateboard training apparatus includes at least one apparatus base, a skateboard space formed by the apparatus base, a pair of apparatus rails carried by the apparatus base and a skateboard trick practice space formed between the apparatus rails and communicating with the skateboard space. A skateboard training method is also disclosed.

18 Claims, 7 Drawing Sheets



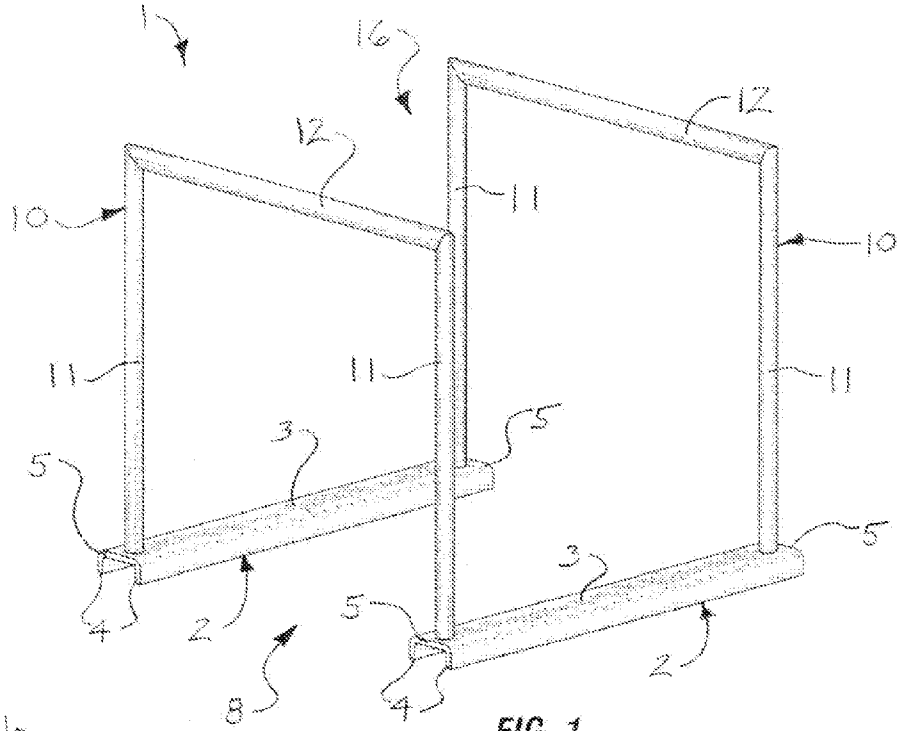


FIG. 1

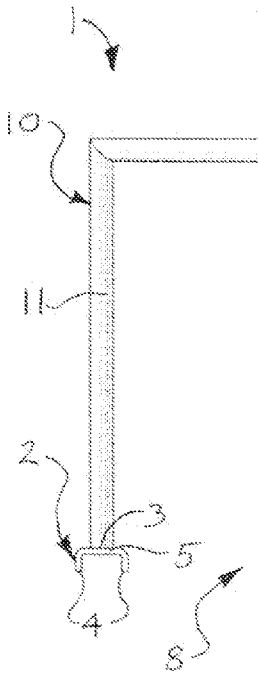


FIG. 2

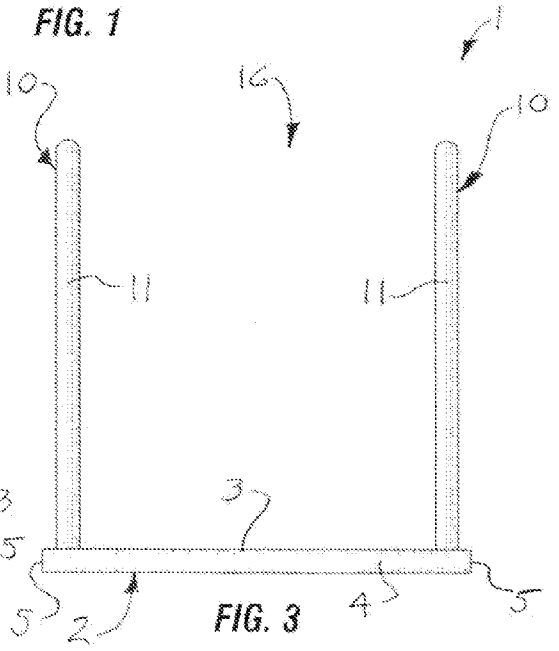


FIG. 3

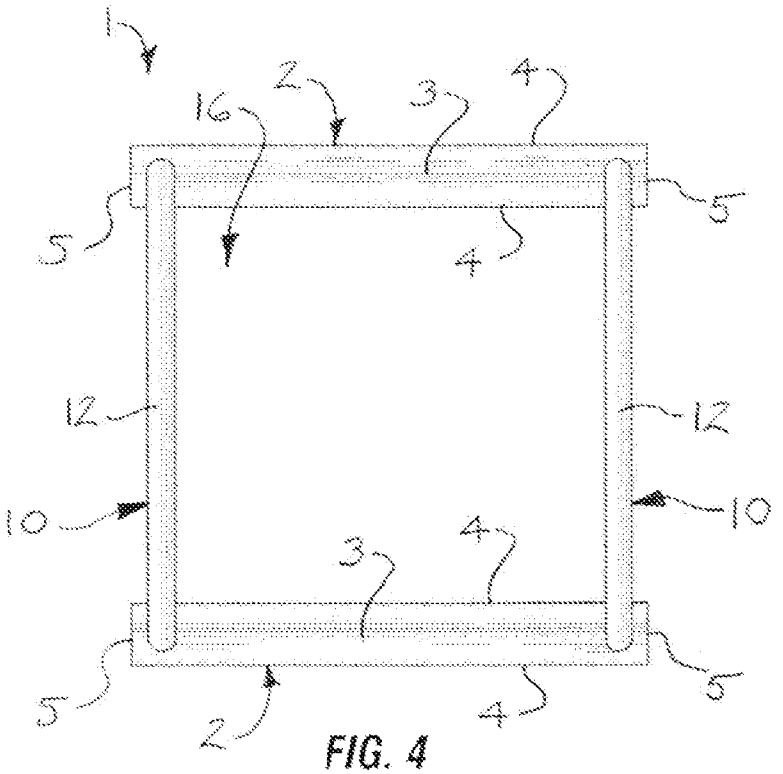


FIG. 4

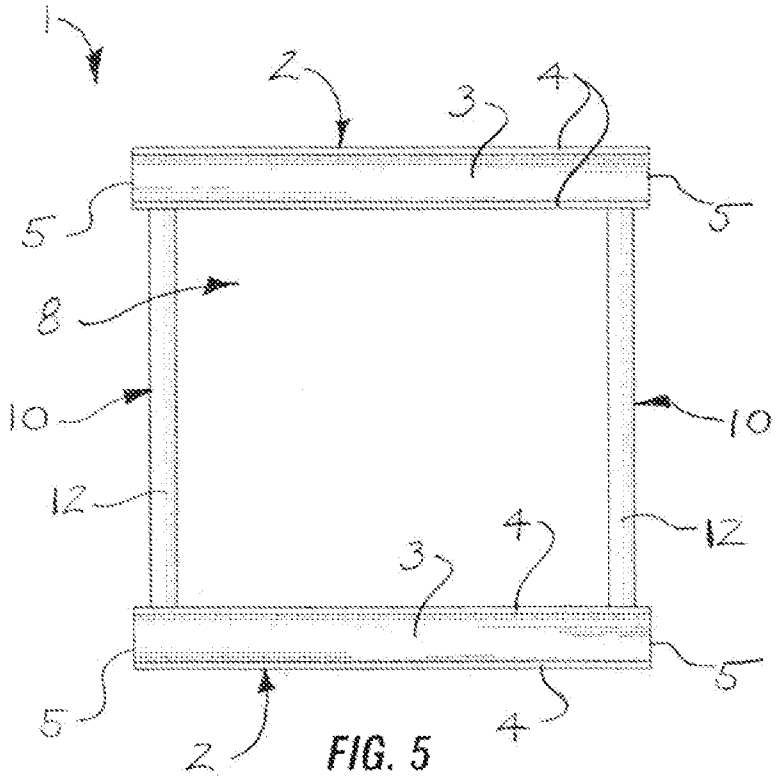


FIG. 5

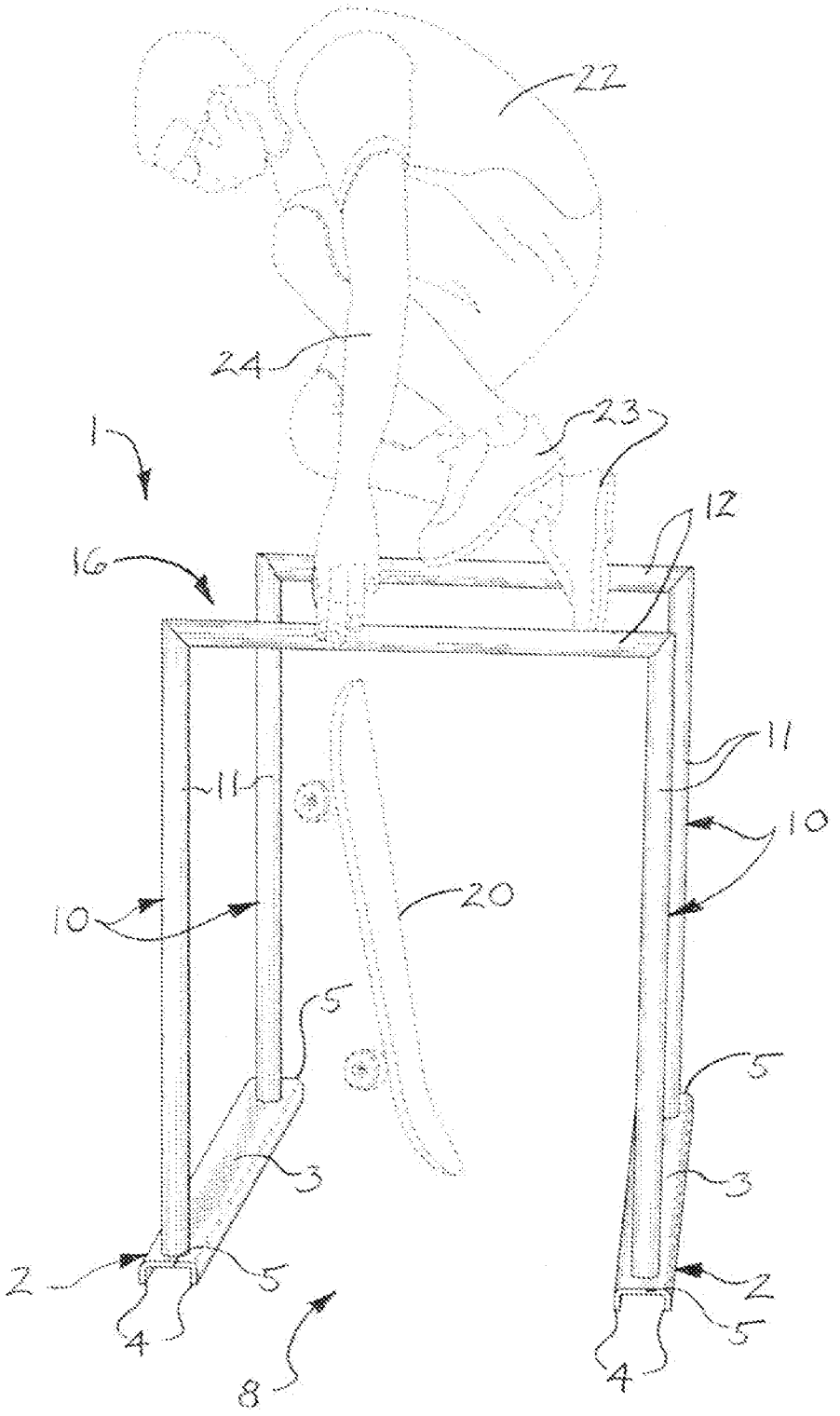


FIG. 6

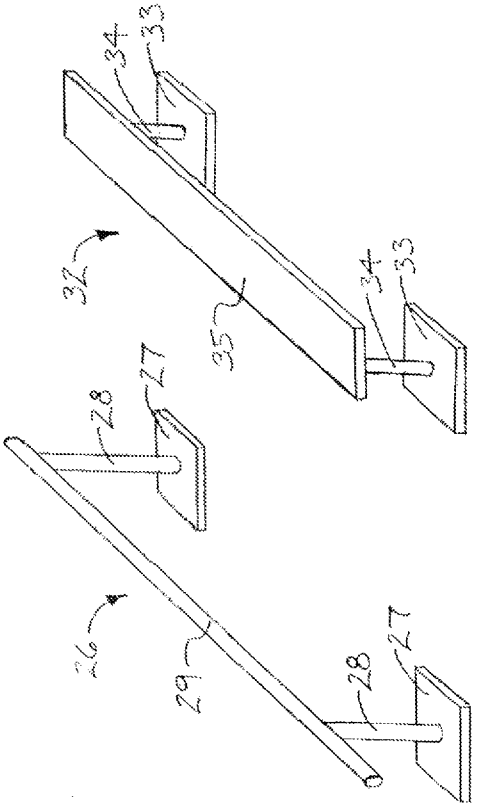


FIG. 7

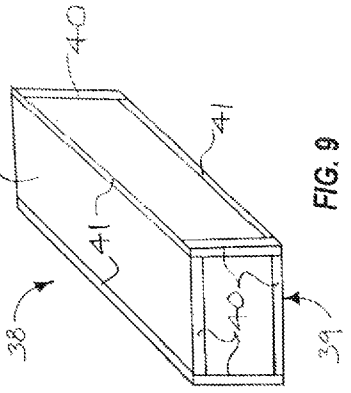


FIG. 9

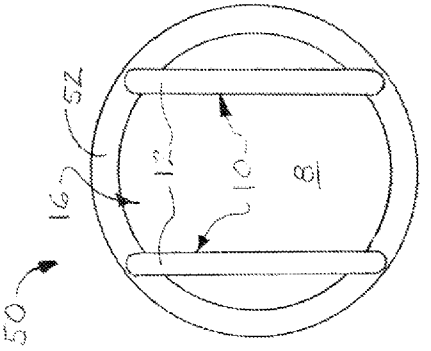


FIG. 11

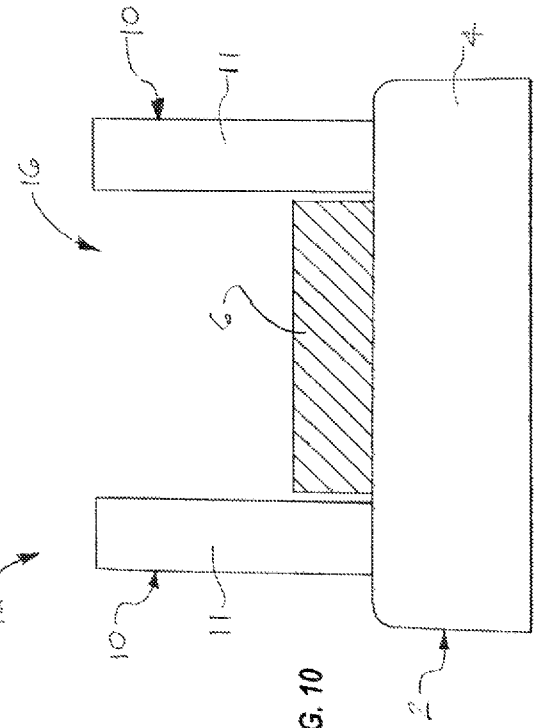


FIG. 10

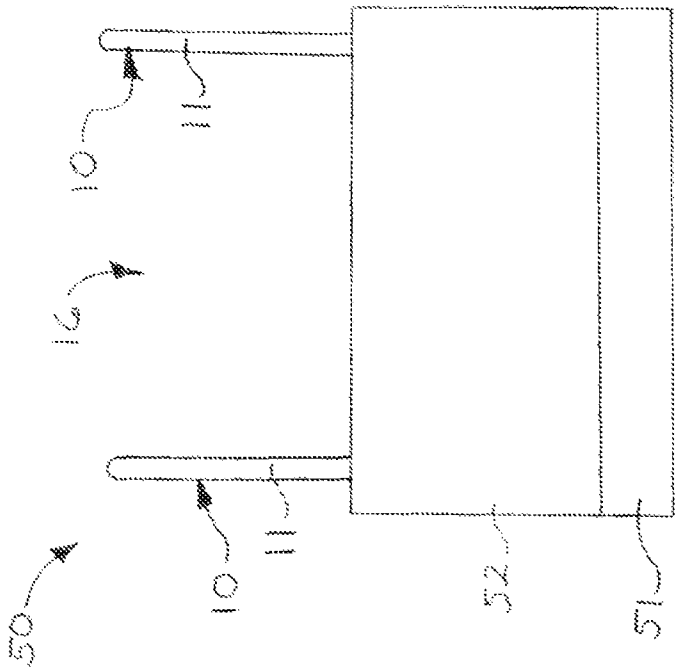


FIG. 13

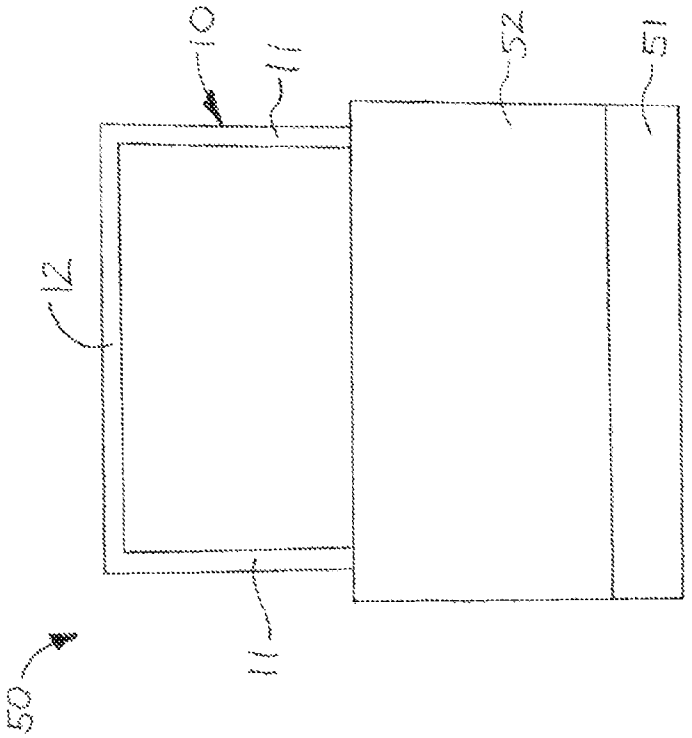


FIG. 12

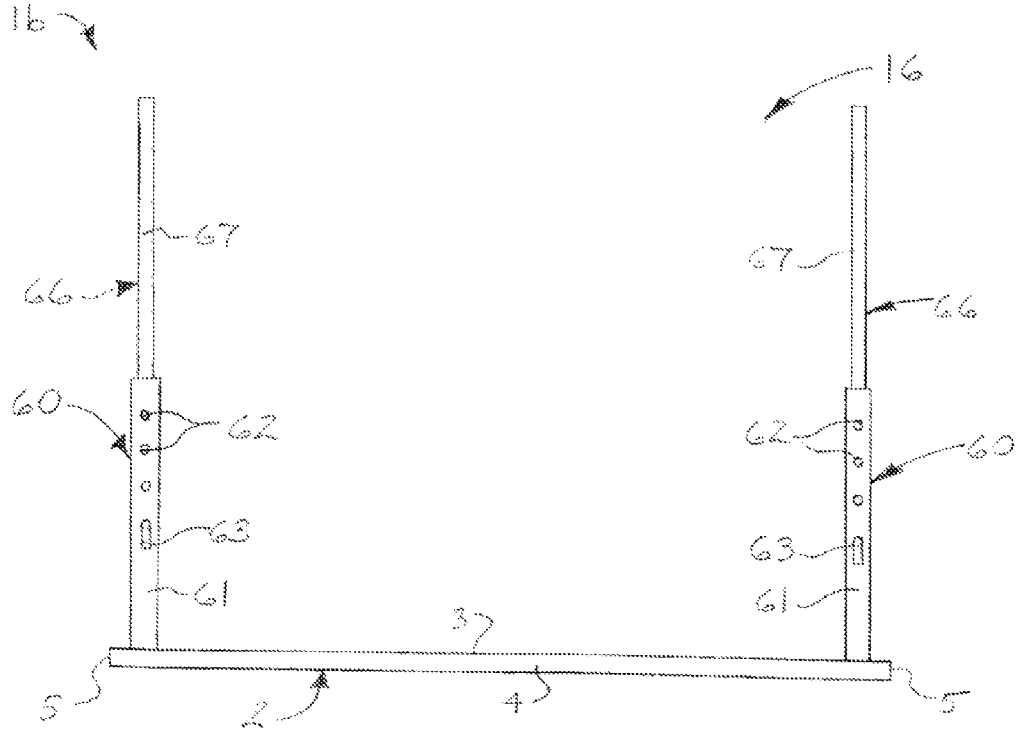

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FIG. 14

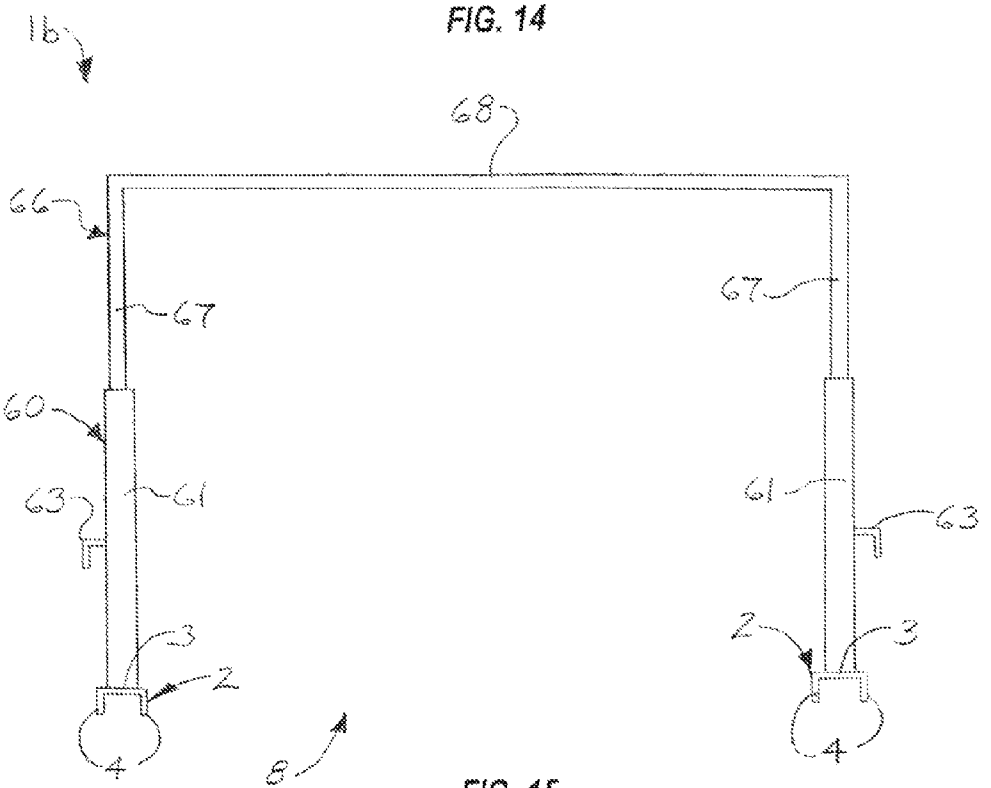
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FIG. 15

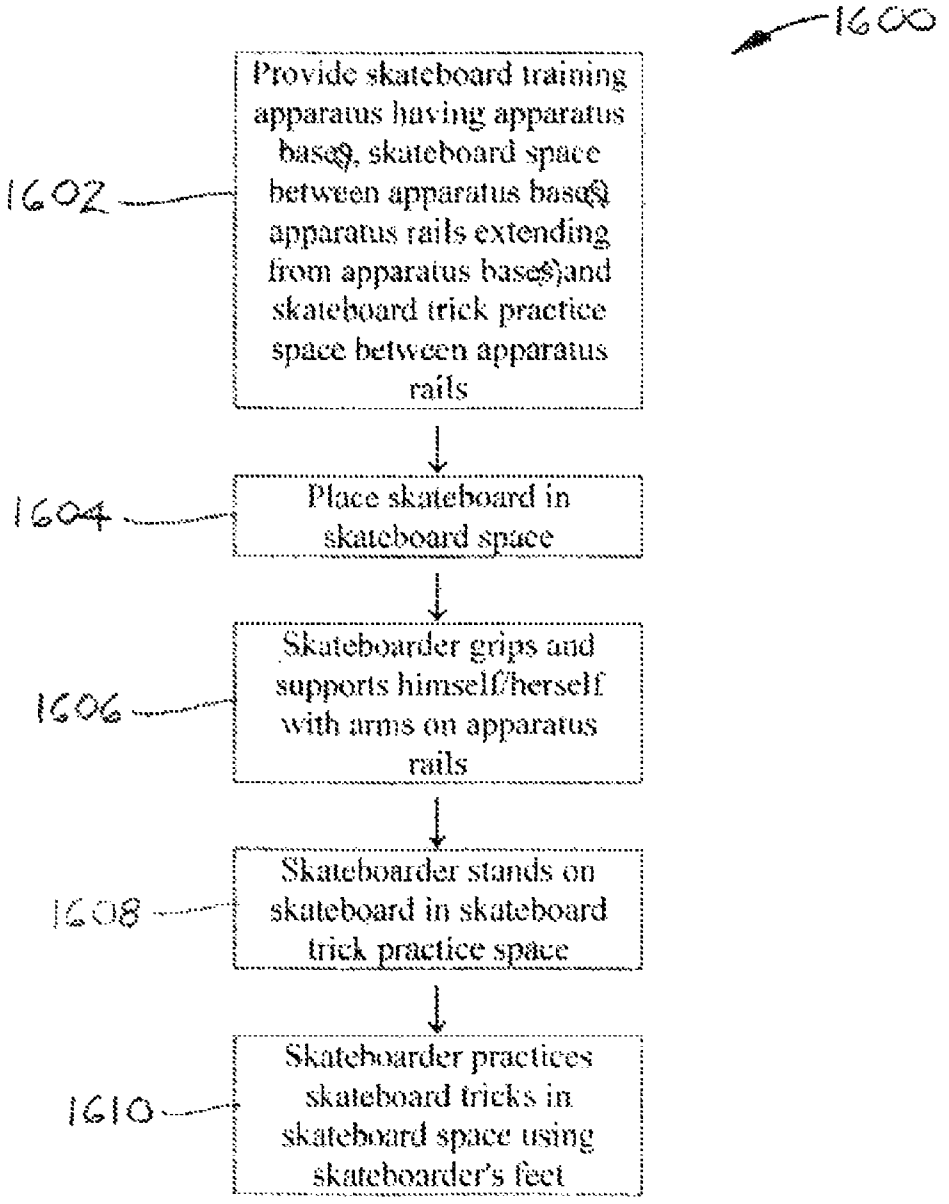
1600
Provide skateboard training apparatus having apparatus base(s), skateboard space between apparatus base(s), apparatus rails extending from apparatus base(s) and skateboard trick practice space between apparatus rails
1602
Place skateboard in skateboard space
1604
Skateboarder grips and supports himself/herself with arms on apparatus rails
1606
Skateboarder stands on skateboard in skateboard trick practice space
1608
Skateboarder practices skateboard tricks in skateboard space using skateboarder's feet
1610

FIG. 16

SKATEBOARD TRAINING APPARATUS AND METHOD

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims the benefit of U.S. provisional application No. 61/349,824, filed May 29, 2010 and entitled "Method and Apparatus for Skateboard Training", which provisional application is incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The disclosure is generally directed to skateboarding. More particularly, the disclosure is generally directed to a skateboard training apparatus and method which safely and effectively trains a user in executing various skateboarding maneuvers or "tricks".

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Skateboarding has enjoyed increasing popularity over the years. Skateboard maneuvers, or "tricks", are popular with many skateboarders. A skateboard trick is typically executed as the skateboarder manipulates the skateboard in some way with the feet and then places the feet back on the skateboard without touching the ground. Many skateboard tricks are complex and require considerable skill to execute correctly and safely.

Traditionally, skateboard tricks are learned by trial and error. However, learning skateboard tricks by trial and error is dangerous since it is common for the rider to fall to the ground with great impact in the event that the skateboard is not landed properly. Moreover, the skateboard may have a tendency to shoot out from under the rider with sufficient force to injure others or damage buildings or vehicles.

Accordingly, a skateboard training apparatus and method which safely and effectively trains a user in executing various skateboard tricks is needed.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The disclosure is generally directed to a skateboard training apparatus. An illustrative embodiment of the apparatus includes at least one apparatus base, a skateboard space formed by the apparatus base, a pair of apparatus rails carried by the apparatus base and a skateboard trick practice space formed between the apparatus rails and communicating with the skateboard space.

In some embodiments, the skateboard training apparatus may include a base track; an apparatus base rotatably carried by the base track; a skateboard space formed in the apparatus base; a pair of spaced-apart apparatus rails carried by the apparatus base; and a skateboard trick practice space formed between the apparatus rails and communicating with the skateboard space.

The disclosure is further generally directed to skateboard training method. An illustrative embodiment of the method includes providing a skateboard training apparatus having at least one apparatus base, a skateboard space formed by the apparatus base, apparatus rails carried by the apparatus base and a skateboard trick practice space between the apparatus rails; placing a skateboard in the skateboard space; having a skateboarder grip and support himself/herself using his/her arms on the apparatus rails; having the skateboarder stand on the skateboard in the skateboard trick practice space; and having the skateboarder practice skateboard tricks in the skateboard space using the skateboarder's feet.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The disclosure will now be made, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIG. **1** is a perspective view of an illustrative embodiment of the skateboard training apparatus;

FIG. **2** is a side view of an illustrative embodiment of the skateboard training apparatus;

FIG. **3** is a front view of an illustrative embodiment of the skateboard training apparatus;

FIG. **4** is top view of an illustrative embodiment of the skateboard training apparatus;

FIG. **5** is a bottom view of an illustrative embodiment of the skateboard training apparatus;

FIG. **6** is a perspective view of an illustrative embodiment of the skateboard training apparatus, with a skateboarder (illustrated in phantom) practicing a trick on a skateboard (also illustrated in phantom) in exemplary application of the skateboard training apparatus;

FIG. **7** is a perspective view of an illustrative embodiment of an auxiliary grind rail assembly;

FIG. **8** is a perspective view of an alternative illustrative embodiment of the auxiliary grind rail assembly;

FIG. **9** is a perspective view of an illustrative embodiment of a guard rail assembly;

FIG. **10** is a side view of an alternative illustrative embodiment of the skateboard training apparatus;

FIG. **11** is a top view of another alternative illustrative embodiment of the skateboard training apparatus;

FIG. **12** is a side view of the skateboard training apparatus illustrated in FIG. **11**;

FIG. **13** is a front view of the skateboard training apparatus illustrated in FIG. **11**;

FIG. **14** is a side view of an illustrative vertically-adjustable embodiment of the skateboard training apparatus;

FIG. **15** is a side view of the skateboard training apparatus illustrated in FIG. **14**; and

FIG. **16** is a flow diagram of an illustrative embodiment of the skateboard training method.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The following detailed description is merely exemplary in nature and is not intended to limit the described embodiments or the application and uses of the described embodiments. As used herein, the word "exemplary" or "illustrative" means "serving as an example, instance, or illustration," Any implementation described herein as "exemplary" or "illustrative" is not necessarily to be construed as preferred or advantageous over other implementations. All of the implementations described below are exemplary implementations provided to enable persons skilled in the art to practice the disclosure and are not intended to limit the scope of the appended claims. Furthermore, there is no intention to be bound by any expressed or implied theory presented in the preceding technical field, background, brief summary or the following detailed description.

Referring initially to FIGS. **1-6** of the drawings, an illustrative embodiment of the skateboard training apparatus, hereinafter apparatus, is generally indicated by reference numeral **1**. The apparatus **1** may be aluminum or steel, for example and without limitation, and includes at least one apparatus base **2**. In some embodiments, the apparatus **1** may include a pair of apparatus bases **2** which may be generally

elongated and disposed in generally parallel, spaced-apart relationship to each other, as illustrated. In some embodiments, each apparatus base **2** may be an inverted channel beam with an apparatus base top **3** and spaced-apart apparatus side base flanges **4** extending from the apparatus base top **3**. Each apparatus base **2** may have opposite apparatus base ends **5**. A skateboard space **8** may be formed by or in the apparatus base **2** or apparatus bases **2** for purposes which will be hereinafter described. In some embodiments, the skateboard space **8** may be formed between the apparatus bases **2**, as illustrated. The skateboard space **8** may have a size which is suitable to accommodate a skateboard **20** (FIG. **6**) as a skateboarder **22** manipulates the skateboard **20** with his or her feet **23** as will be hereinafter described. In some embodiments, the skateboard space **8** may have a size of at least about 3 square feet.

A pair of spaced-apart apparatus rails **10** may extend from the apparatus base **2** or apparatus bases **2**. In some embodiments, each apparatus rail **10** may have a generally inverted. U-shape and may include a vertical rail segment **11** which extends upwardly from a corresponding apparatus base **2** and a horizontal rail segment **12** which connects the vertical rail segments **11**. Each vertical rail segment **11** of each apparatus rail **10** may be disposed adjacent to a corresponding apparatus base end **5** of an apparatus base **2**. A skateboard trick practice space **16** may be formed between the apparatus rails **10** and communicate with the skateboard space **8**. The skateboard trick practice space **16** may have a size which is suitable to accommodate a skateboarder **22** (FIG. **6**) as the skateboarder **22** practices skateboard tricks by manipulating the skateboard **20** with his or her feet **23** as will be hereinafter described.

As illustrated in FIG. **6**, in exemplary application, the apparatus **1** enables a skateboarder **22** to safely and effectively learn or practice various skateboarding maneuvers or tricks while preventing or minimizing the risk of injury to the skateboarder **22**. The apparatus **1** may enable the skateboarder **22** to learn and fine-tune skateboarding tricks in less time and with less injuries than with traditional methods. Accordingly, the skateboard **20** is initially placed on the ground (not illustrated) in the skateboard space **8** between the apparatus bases **2**. The skateboarder **22** then places his or her feet **23** on the skateboard **20**, stands in the skateboard trick practice space **16** and grips the horizontal rail segments **12** of the respective apparatus rails **10**. As the skateboarder **22** supports himself or herself with his or her arms **24** on the apparatus rails **10**, the skateboarder **22** can then manipulate the skateboard **20** with the feet **23** to perform any of various tricks such as ollies, kickflips, heelflips, hardflips, pop shivots, rotational tricks and any variations of tricks as well as their nollie counterparts, for example and without limitation. Therefore, the apparatus rails **10** enable the skateboarder **22** to support himself or herself while performing the tricks without the fear of inadvertently falling to the ground in the event of improper execution of the trick. In the event that he or she inadvertently fumbles a trick, the skateboarder **22** can simply support himself or herself on the apparatus rails **10** using his or her arms **24** such that the skateboarder **22** does not fall to the ground and the skateboard **20** remains beneath the skateboarder **22** in the skateboard space **8**. As the skill of the skateboarder **22** in properly executing the tricks progresses, the skateboarder **22** can try to perform the tricks without the aid of the apparatus **1**.

Referring next to FIG. **10** of the drawings, an alternative illustrative embodiment of the skateboard training apparatus is generally indicated by reference numeral **1***a*. The apparatus **1***a* may have a design which is similar to that of the apparatus **1** heretofore described with respect to FIGS. **1-6**. In the apparatus **1***a*, the apparatus base **2** may have a selected height. A grind rail **6** may be provided on one or both of the apparatus bases **2**. Accordingly, a skateboarder **22** (FIG. **6**) may use the grind rail **6** to practice and build confidence in "locking into" and properly executing grind maneuvers with the skateboard **20**. In various embodiments, the grind rail **6** can be formed integrally with the apparatus base **2** or attached to the apparatus base **2** using fasteners (not illustrated) and/or other suitable attachment technique known by those skilled in the art.

Referring next to FIGS. **14** and **15** of the drawings, another alternative illustrative embodiment of the skateboard training apparatus **1***b* includes a pair of height-adjustable apparatus rails **60**. Each apparatus rail **60** may include a pair of rail bases **61** which extend upwardly from the respective apparatus bases **2**, as illustrated in FIG. **15**. Multiple vertically-spaced pin openings **62** (FIG. **14**) may be provided in each rail base **61**. A rail insert **66** is vertically adjustable with respect to the rail bases **61**. The rail insert **66** may include a pair of generally elongated, spaced-apart vertical rail segments **67** which are telescopically inserted in the respective rail bases **61** and a horizontal rail segment **68** which connects the vertical rail segments **67**. Accordingly, the rail insert **66** can be deployed at a selected height depending on the preferences of the practicing skateboarder **22** (FIG. **6**) by extending a lock pin **63** through one of the pin openings **62** in the corresponding rail base **61** and through a registering pin opening (not illustrated) in the corresponding vertical rail segment **67** of the rail insert **66** to lock the rail insert **66** at the selected height. The practicing skateboarder **22** grips the horizontal rail segments **68** on the rail inserts **66** of the respective apparatus rails **60** to practice execution of the skateboard tricks with his or her feet **23** as was heretofore described with respect to the apparatus **1** in FIG. **6**.

Referring next to FIG. **7** of the drawings, an auxiliary grind rail assembly **26** may include a pair of spaced-apart assembly bases **27**. A pair of rail supports **28** may be upward-standing from the respective assembly bases **27**. A round grind rail **29** may be supported by the rail supports **28**. Accordingly, a practicing skateboarder **22** (FIG. **6**) can use the grind rail **29** of the auxiliary grind rail assembly **26** to practice and build confidence in locking into and properly executing grind maneuvers using the skateboard **20** on the grind rail **29**.

Referring next to FIG. **8** of the drawings, an alternative illustrative embodiment of an auxiliary grind rail assembly **32** may include a pair of spaced-apart assembly bases **33**. A pair of rail supports **34** may be upward-standing from the respective assembly bases **33**. A rectangular grind rail **35** may be supported by the rail supports **34**. Accordingly, a practicing skateboarder **22** (FIG. **6**) can use the grind rail **35** of the auxiliary grind rail assembly **32** to practice and build confidence in locking into and properly executing grind maneuvers using the skateboard **20** on the grind rail **35**.

Referring next to FIG. **9** of the drawings, an illustrative embodiment of a grind rail assembly **38** is illustrated. The grind rail assembly **38** may include a grind rail assembly frame **39** which may have a generally elongated, box-shaped configuration. The grind rail assembly frame **39** may include a pair of spaced-apart rectangular end frame members **40** and multiple side frame members **41** connecting the end frame members **40**. An assembly top panel **42**, which may be plywood, for example and without limitation, may be supported between a pair of the side frame members **41** of the grind rail assembly frame **39**. Accordingly, a practicing skateboarder **22** (FIG. **6**) can use one of the side frame members **41** next to the assembly top panel **42** to practice and build confidence in

locking into and properly executing grind maneuvers using the skateboard **20** on the side frame member **41**.

Referring next to FIGS. **11-13** of the drawings, another alternative illustrative embodiment of the skateboard training apparatus is generally indicated by reference numeral **50**. As illustrated in FIGS. **12** and **13**, the apparatus **50** may include around, annular or circular base track **51**. An apparatus base **52** may be mounted on the base track **51** in such a manner that the apparatus base **52** is rotatable with respect to the base track **51**. In some embodiments, bearings (not illustrated) may be inserted between the base track **51** and the apparatus base **52** to reduce friction as the apparatus base **52** rotates with respect to the base track **51**. A pair of apparatus rails **10** may be upward-standing from the apparatus base **52**. Accordingly, a skateboarder **22** (FIG. **6**) can place a skateboard **20** in the middle of the base track **51** and support himself or herself on the apparatus rails **10** to practice skateboard tricks involving rotation as the apparatus base **52** rotates with respect to the base track **51**.

Referring next to FIG. **16** of the drawings, a flow diagram **1600** of an illustrative embodiment of a skateboard training method is illustrated. In block **1602**, a skateboard training apparatus having at least one apparatus base, a skateboard space formed by the apparatus base or bases, apparatus rails extending from the apparatus base or apparatus bases and a skateboard trick practice space between the apparatus rails is provided. In various applications, the skateboard training apparatus may have a design which is the same as or similar to the apparatus **1** (FIGS. **1-6**), the apparatus **1***a* (FIG. **10**), the apparatus **1***b* (FIGS. **14** and **15**) or the apparatus **50** (FIGS. **11-13**). In block **1604**, a skateboard is placed in the skateboard space of the apparatus. In block **1606**, a skateboarder grips and supports himself or herself using his or her arms on the apparatus rails. In block **1608**, the skateboarder stands on the skateboard in the skateboard trick practice space of the apparatus. In block **1610**, the skateboarder practices the skateboard tricks in the skateboard space using the skateboarder's feet. The skateboard tricks may include any of a variety of skateboard tricks which are known by those skilled in the art including but not limited to ollies, kickflips, heelflips, hardflips, pop shivots, rotational tricks and any variations of tricks as well as their nollie counterparts. In some applications, the skateboarder may practice grind maneuvers with the skateboard on the grind rail **6** of the apparatus **1***a* which is illustrated in FIG. **10**.

It will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that a variety of embodiments of the skateboard training apparatus are possible depending on the types of skateboard tricks or maneuvers which a skateboarder desires to practice in a safe and effective manner. For example, referring again to FIG. **10**, in some embodiments of the apparatus **1***a*, a grind rail **6** may be attached to one or both of the apparatus bases **2** to enable the skateboarder to practice grinding maneuvers. Other embodiments may include heightening of all or a portion of the apparatus bases to create a built-in fun box or a fun box with a built-in piece of tubing so that the possibility of locking into various obstacles is built into the apparatus. Fun box variations may include bolt-on or freestanding accessories. Additionally, the apparatus can be appropriately sized for younger skateboarders who are being introduced to skateboarding at an early age. Likewise, the vertically-adjustable apparatus rails **60** of the apparatus **1***b* which was heretofore described with respect to FIGS. **14** and **15** may be adjusted to accommodate growth spurts and allow a preferred rail height to be achieved. Similarly, the connection between each apparatus base and each apparatus rail can be made continuously-adjustable or incrementally-adjustable by such means as bolted, clamped or press-fitted attachments, for example and without limitation.

While various illustrative embodiments have been described above, it will be recognized and understood that various modifications can be made and the appended claims are intended to cover all such modifications which may fall within the spirit and scope of the disclosure.

What is claimed is:

1. A skateboard training apparatus, comprising:
- a pair of spaced-apart apparatus bases;
- a skateboard space formed by the apparatus bases, the skateboard space unobstructed between the apparatus bases;
- a pair of apparatus rails carried by the apparatus bases; and
- a skateboard trick practice space formed between the apparatus rails and communicating with the skateboard space.

2. The skateboard training apparatus of claim **1** wherein each of the apparatus bases has a generally inverted U-shaped cross-section.

3. The skateboard training apparatus of claim **1** wherein the apparatus rails connect the apparatus bases to each other.

4. The skateboard training apparatus of claim **3** wherein each of the apparatus rails comprises a pair of vertical rail segments carried by the respective apparatus bases and a horizontal rail segment carried by the vertical rail segments.

5. The skateboard training apparatus of claim **1** wherein the skateboard space has an area of at least about 3 square feet.

6. The skateboard training apparatus of claim **1** wherein each of the apparatus rails comprises a pair of rail bases carried by the respective apparatus bases and a rail insert telescopically inserted in the rail bases, respectively.

7. The skateboard training apparatus of claim **6** wherein the rail insert comprises a pair of spaced-apart vertical rail segments telescopically inserted in the respective rail bases and a horizontal rail segment carried by the vertical rail segments.

8. The skateboard training apparatus of claim **7** further comprising a plurality of spaced-apart pin openings in each of the rail bases and a lock pin extending through one of the pin openings and engaging the corresponding vertical rail segment.

9. The skateboard training apparatus of claim **1** further comprising a grind rail carried by at least one of the apparatus bases.

10. The skateboard training apparatus of claim **1** wherein the apparatus bases comprises a pair of generally elongated, parallel, spaced-apart apparatus bases each having apparatus base ends and the apparatus rails are carried by the apparatus bases generally adjacent to the apparatus base ends.

11. A skateboard training apparatus, comprising:
- a base track;
- an apparatus base rotatably carried by the base track;
- a skateboard space formed in the apparatus base;
- a pair of spaced-apart apparatus rails carried by the apparatus base; and
- a skateboard trick practice space formed between the apparatus rails and communicating with the skateboard space.

12. The skateboard training apparatus of claim **11** wherein each of the apparatus rails comprises a pair of spaced-apart vertical rail segments carried by the apparatus base and a horizontal rail segment carried by the vertical rail segments.

13. A skateboard training method, comprising:
- providing a skateboard training apparatus having a base track, at least one apparatus base rotatably carried by the base track, a skateboard space formed by the apparatus

base, apparatus rails carried by the apparatus base and a skateboard trick practice space between the apparatus rails;

placing a skateboard in the skateboard space;

having a skateboarder grip and support himself/herself using his/her arms on the apparatus rails;

having the skateboarder stand on the skateboard in the skateboard trick practice space; and

having the skateboarder practice skateboard tricks in the skateboard space using the skateboarder's feet.

14. The skateboard training method of claim **13** wherein providing a skateboard training apparatus comprises providing a skateboard training apparatus having a pair of spaced-apart apparatus bases with the skateboard space formed between the apparatus bases.

15. The skateboard training method of claim **13** further comprising adjusting the heights of the apparatus rails on the skateboard training apparatus.

16. The skateboard training method of claim **13** wherein having the skateboarder practice skateboard tricks comprises having the skateboarder practice at least one of ollies, kickflips, heelflips, hardflips, pop shivots and rotational tricks.

17. The skateboard training method of claim **13** wherein providing a skateboard training apparatus having a skateboard space formed by the apparatus base comprises providing a skateboard training apparatus having a skateboard space with an area of at least about 3 square feet.

18. The skateboard training method of claim **13** wherein providing a skateboard training apparatus comprises providing a skateboard training apparatus having at least one grind rail on the at least one apparatus base, and further comprising having the skateboarder practice grind maneuvers with the skateboard on the grind rail.

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